

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:00 p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters made a motion at 6:00 p.m. to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations, Para Negotiations; (a) (1) Personnel: Discussion of Professional Qualifications and Credentials for Prospective Director of Administration. Dr. Sun seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair; Mr. Matt Plain; Mr. Michael Fain (arrived at 6:06 p.m.); Mr. Jeff Dronzek; Dr. Lori McEwen; and Dr. Yan Sun. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; was also in attendance.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Recognitions

a. EGHS's CyberSecurity Team-First Place-RI CyberPatriot

Competition

- b. EGHS Scholastic Art and Writing Award winners**
EGHS students were recognized and congratulated.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular for April 25, 2017**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the April 25, 2017 with two corrections (IV. b and IV. c).

- b. Regular and Executive for May 2, 2017**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the May 2, 2017 minutes with one correction (VIII. c).

VI. Superintendent's Report

- a. Stage II Submission Approval**

The district received approval to move forward with the EGHS special education project and the Hanaford vestibule. The Building Committee met today and reviewed the blueprints for both schools. Both projects are slated to begin this summer. The high school project will be completed by the start of school in August and the Hanaford project will require phasing that would go into mid-late fall. The Hanaford main office will be moved from left to right from summer to fall. Once the timeline is established, the community will receive notice.

- b. PARCC Update**

Testing has been going well. No tech issues to report. Teaching/learning will go back on the agendas once the budget season is complete.

c. End of year events

Ceremonies have been staggered for all schools to alleviate traffic issues.

d. Mental Health Forums

The forum with Dr. Johnson will take place tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. at Cole.

VII. Action Items

a. Resignation-Eve Bisard, School-Nurse Teacher, Meadowbrook

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation.

b. Retirement-Rosemary Metcalf-Guidance Counselor, Cole

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Dronzek, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the retirement. Ms. Metcalf will be recognized at the second meeting in June.

c. Appointments

1. Asst Coach Girls' Outdoor Track-EGHS-Latif Thomas

2. Asst Coach Boys' Outdoor Track-EGHS-Kenneth Topalian

3. Asst Coach Boys' Lacrosse-EGHS-Bruce Roberts

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Plain, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointments #1-3. Mr. Plain noted that Mr. Roberts was a 1961 graduate of EGHS.

VIII. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates

a. Transportation Subcommittee

To be discussed during IX. (b).

b. Finance Committee

The committee met last Tuesday to discuss the budget presentation. There was discussion about the fiscal impact statement and how various districts use different methods (cumulative effect over time). In the future, the committee would like to include a scenario showing no additional proposed funding (except statutory steps). This will show the public the required funding even with no proposed increases.

c. Health and Wellness

The group met today and discussed essential oils in the classroom. Principal Marcaccio and Mr. Wilmarth attended the meeting. Meadowbrook is looking to pilot a program with oils in the classroom. Families will be given the option to opt-in/out based on their child's health (allergies, etc.). The school physician has given the okay.

Mr. Wilmarth discussed the cleaning supplies used in the district. "Green" supplies are used for cleaning, but he does not have "green" supplies for the floors. The committee is looking to work with the PTG to provide guidance on "green" classroom donations.

There was minimal discussion about the Lunch Credit Policy. Ms. Mark would like to enlist the help of the Finance Committee to discuss/review the financial impact of deficits (lunch program) at the end of the year. The group would also like to promote additional before school activity programs. More parents would need to be trained. Dr. Mercurio discussed the proposed schedule for spraying

for ticks. Organic oils will be used.

d. Mental Health Subcommittee

Vanessa Weiner of the Center For Resilience was the guest speaker at last week's meeting. The group is interested in mindful practices. The Center for Resilience has worked with several public schools. The group may visit schools that have implemented mindfulness.

e. SEAC

The group met on May 10th. Mr. Plain was thanked for attending. The college/transition forum for students (with disabilities/learning challenges) will take place on May 25th from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at EGHS. The committee also discussed how they could make recommendations to the Policy Committee. Mr. Plain would like SEAC members to attend Policy Committee meetings when there are policies that affect them. Mr. Wilson provided updates regarding transition opportunities for students (tours, etc.). SEAC by-laws will be reviewed in the future.

IX. Discussion

a. FY2018 budget

Last night, the public hearing took place for the school and town. Dr. Mercurio presented

the school's budget. Ms. Mark thanked Dr. Mercurio, Mr. Dronzek, and all that assisted with the budget process. The Committee discussed the budget process, questions/comments (cuts, reductions, etc.) that were made during the meeting, and the structural deficit. The Committee discussed sending a specific document to the town (in a different format) that outlines the

cuts/reductions.

b. Transportation Subcommittee: FY2018 Transportation Plan Recommendation

Mr. Dronzek thanked the members of the Transportation Subcommittee for their time and effort. At the last committee meeting, several parents were present to discuss safety of walkers. The committee continues to review safety and evaluate parameters for bussing. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th. The Transportation Subcommittee's recommendation is to remain with a two-tier system. Seventeen buses are needed for Cole and EGHS. One bus is needed for OLM and fifteen buses are needed for the elementary schools. By enforcing the transportation policy (for walking), the number of buses may be reduced. The committee is recommending a one-hour buffer between elementary and secondary pickups. The start times for Cole and EGHS can remain at 8:00 a.m. The elementary schools will need to move to a 9:00 a.m. start time (currently 8:50 a.m.). Mr. Dronzek provided a handout (draft) of scheduled routes. With these changes, there may be extra buses for athletics next year. It appears the longest bus ride is about forty minutes. The Transportation Subcommittee will present a formal recommendation to the School Committee on June 6th.

X. School Committee Concerns/Important Matters Pending

Mr. Plain would like to recognize Mr. Monks (community member/former teacher). He will take the lead on this. Mr. Plain thanked the Transportation Subcommittee for the enormous amount of work they have done.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:27 p.m. The Committee went back into executive session at 8:32 p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY**